

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: PFOR IS, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT VISIT TO ISRAEL

SUMMARY: WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT BEGAN HIS
FOUR- DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL JUNE 7 WITH ATMOSPHERE BEST DESCRIBED
AS CORDIAL. AS INDICATION OF PREVAILING GOOD ATMOSPHERE,
LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN INFORMED EMBOFF JUNE 8
THAT MRS MEIR HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT INVITATION FOR VISIT TO WEST
GERMANY. PUBLIC STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MRS MEIR AT
AIRPORT AND AT DINNER HONORING CHANCELLOR BRANDT WERE MARKED
BY PRAISE FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ISRAEL AND FOR HIS POLICY
OF OSTPOLITIK, LESSONS OF WHICH SHE HOPED WOULD BE APPLIED TO
ARAB- ISRAEL DISPUTE. MRS MEIR DREW SPECIAL AND FAVORABLE
ATTENTION TO PORTION OF BRANDT' S ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE
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STATED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND ISRAEL REMAINED CHARACTERIZED BY SHARED HISTORICAL AND MORAL EXPERIENCES WHICH GERMANY COULD NEVER FORGET. FIRST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN MRS MEIR AND CHANCELLOR BRANDT REPORTEDLY DEALT WITH EAST- WEST RELATIONS, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND MID EAST. EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT HAS BEEN LARGELY FACTUAL BUT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN FAVORABLE LIGHT. MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED AT AIRPORT AND DURING BRANDT'S VISIT TO ISRAELI MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO DIED IN HOLOCAUST BUT CAUSED LITTLE NOTICE AND NO DISRUPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. CHANCELLOR BRANDT WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY PRIMIN MEIR AND MEMBERS OF HER CABINET. DURING EXCHANGE OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT, BRANDT IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON EXPERIENCES OF THE PAST BY STATING: " WE CANNOT UNDO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE. THE SUM OF THE SUFFERING AND OF THE HORROR CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR PEOPLE. COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES REMAINS CHARACTERIZED BY THE HISTORICAL AND MORAL BACKGROUND OF OUR EXPERIENCES." BRANDT WENT ON TO NOTE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF WEST GERMAN- ISRAELI RELATIONS WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE APPARENT IN BILATERAL TALKS HELD DURING HIS VISIT. IN RESPONSE MRS MEIR DELIVERED WARM WELCOMING STATEMENT IN WHICH SHE PRAISED BRANDT FOR HIS ANTI- NAZI ROLE AND HIS KEEN INTEREST IN ISRAEL.

2. AFTER ARRIVAL STATEMENTS, BRANDT WAS TAKEN BY HELICOPTER TO JERUSALEM FOR VISIT TO YAD VASHEM, ISRAELI MEMORIAL TO JEWS WHO DIED IN HOLOCAUST. VISIT TO MEMORIAL WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN PRESS WITH SERVICE AND WREATH- LAYING CEREMONY DESCRIBED AS CHARGED WITH EMOTION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ABOUT 100 DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING BRANDT'S VISIT WERE PRESENT BUT CAUSED NO DISRUPTION OF SERVICES OR DISTURBANCES.

3. IMMEDIATELY AFTER CEREMONY, FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BRANDT AND MRS MEIR TOOK PLACE. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS OF BRIEFING FOR NEWSMEN HELD BY WEST GERMAN SPOKESMAN, BRANDT BRIEFED MRS MEIR ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, BREZHNEV, TITO AND HEATH AND DISCUSSED FOMIN SCHEEL'S VISIT TO AMMAN, BEIRUT AND CAIRO. BRANDT ALSO COVERED EAST- WEST RELATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. FOR HER PART, MRS MEIR COVERED ISRAEL'S POSITION ON MID- EAST UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFLICT.

4. WHILE BRANDT AND MRS MEIR WERE MEETING, DELEGATIONS FROM TWO SIDES HELD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS OVER SITUATION IN MID EAST AND BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND WEST GERMANY. ACCORDING TO NEWS BRIEFING AFTERWARDS, WEST GERMAN SIDE STATED IT WAS DETERMINED TO " SPEAK TO ALL PARTIES

OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE SAME LANGUAGE" BUT WEST GERMAN
RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD NOT LEAD TO
DEVELOPMENTS AT ISRAEL' S EXPENSE. WEST GERMAN SIDE ALSO
RULED OUT ANY ROLE AS MEDIATOR IN MID EAST CONFLICT.
ISRAELI SIDE, LED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRIMIN OFFICE
MORDECHAI GAZIT, REVIEWED ISRAELI POSITIONS ON NEED FOR
DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AND NECESSITY OF OBTAINING SECURE AND
RECOGNIZED BORDERS THROUGH SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

5. BRANDT' S FIRST DAY IN ISRAEL CONCLUDED WITH DINNER IN HIS
HONOR HOSTED BY MRS MEIR AT KNESSET. MRS MEIR SPEAKING
WITHOUT NOTES PRAISED CHANCELLOR BRANDT FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE
FOR ISRAEL, STATING THAT HIS ACTIONS HAD HELPED TO LAY GROUND-
WORK FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES. REFERRING
TO HIS VISIT, MRS MEIR SAID: " THIS IS A TASK FOR ME OR FOR
ANYONE OF US THAT COULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT IF YOU YOURSELF
HAD NOT MADE IT VERY EASY FOR US.... YOU ARE THE FIRST OR
AMONG THE VERY FIRST WHO SAID THAT WHAT HAPPENED CANNOT BE
UNDONE, BUT NEITHER CAN IT BE FORGOTTEN, AND THAT WAS A WORD
OF MAGIC THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US AND FOR YOU TO REMEMBER
(THE PAST)." MRS MEIR WENT ON TO EXPOUND ON HISTORICAL YEARNING
OF JEWISH PEOPLE TO RETURN TO ISRAEL AND ESTABLISH STATE IN
WHICH THEY WOULD BE SECURE. SHE PRAISED BRANDT' S POLICY OF
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JERUSALEM
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